



# The Trumpeter

Ezek 33:3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

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## The Rapture

The Rapture is a term that is commonly used to refer to the time when Jesus Christ comes to meet His church in the air. The Biblical basis for it is found at I Thessalonians 4:16-17 where it reads: "*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*" After reading this verse, you may be asking: So, where did the word Rapture come from?

The word **Rapture** most likely originated from the Latin Bible, Vulgate in dealing with this verse. This was the Bible version that the church used for over one thousand years since introduced in the fifth century. In the Vulgate version, the word "**rapiemur**" is used where the words "**caught up**" are found in the English Bibles. **Rapiemur** is from its root word **rapto**, the word from which **rapture** has been derived. Hence, the word **rapture** is not made up as some claim. It is a Bible word, it's just not found in the English Bibles.

There is much controversy about this event as it relates to the coming Tribulation, a seven year time of great trouble predicted in the Bible. There is difference of opinion of whether the Rapture will occur before the beginning of the seven years, in the middle of, or at the end of the seven years. These positions are referred to as pre-trib, mid-trib, and post-trib accordingly.

This writer is pre-trib, meaning I believe the Rapture is going to occur before the Tribulation. The main reason is that Jesus said about this event that "**no man knows the day and the hour**" (Matthew 24:42, 44, & 25:13). No intervening events are tied to this event. This cannot be said about Jesus' return at the end of the Tribulation or even in the middle! His return to the earth could be calculated after the Tribulation begins. All one would have to do is mark the date that Israel is given the right to start the daily sacrifice on the Temple Mount (Daniel 9:27), and seven years later, Jesus will return to the Mt. of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

Concerning the mid-trib return, all one would have to do is recognize the Antichrist seating himself in the Temple (II Thessalonians 2:4) and counting forty-two months later (Revelation

13:5) to the return of Jesus. If the Rapture were to occur in the middle of or at the end of the seven year Tribulation, then **we could know** the day.

A second reason is a very strong one, but is a very theological one, so follow me carefully. Jesus is to return and set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem. This will be a physical kingdom over which He will reign over mortal subjects. Scriptures abound that bear this truth, but for the sake of simplicity, I will refer to only a few. Isaiah 65 refers to the Lord's coming kingdom. He describes it as having people who have children (verse 23), build houses and vineyards (verse 21), old men live out their days and longevity of life is restored to mankind (verse 20), and the wolf and the lamb graze together (verse 25). Zechariah also gave testimony that the Lord's kingdom would be a physical kingdom on earth with physical people living there. He states that the Lord will be King over all the earth (verse 9) and people will live in it (verse 11).

Matthew is another that refers to the Kingdom of the Lord. He describes a preliminary judgment to establishing the Lord's Kingdom. All the nations are brought before the Lord and He separates them, believer from non-believer (verse 32). Then He allows the believers to enter His Kingdom (verse 34). These are the same people referred to by Isaiah and Zechariah and they go into the Kingdom alive. The non-believers are judged and thrown off the earth (verse 41). This will leave only believing mortals to initially inhabit the beginning days of the Lord's Kingdom. Now remember, the Kingdom will begin with only saved people who are alive.

In making my point, consider another "Rapture" verse of the Bible, I Corinthians 15:51. It says that **all believers will be changed into immortality**. If the Rapture occurred at the end of the Tribulation, **all** believers would be changed into immortality just prior to the establishment of the Lord's Kingdom. There would be no believing mortals left to initially inhabit the Kingdom and live as Isaiah and Zechariah predicted they would. This fact makes the post-trib view a theological impossibility.

I think the most important point is that the pre-trib view is the only view that allows us to consider that the Lord Jesus could come today. There is nothing that has to precede His arrival and calling us up to meet Him in the air. This is the feature I find most attractive and effective in exhorting people to get right with the Lord.

Jesus described a world with lots of trouble in Luke 21, a world that looks a lot like the one we live in today. He also said that when we "*see these things beginning to take place*",... *our "redemption is drawing near"* (Luke 21:28). The Rapture will be a great redemption time! Should it occur today, are you ready? If not, ask the Lord to forgive your sin and come into your life today!

# A Great Battle Is Brewing!

One great interesting feature in Bible prophecy is the battle that is described in Ezekiel 38 & 39! Bible prophecy students for centuries have examined this prophecy that talks of the future invasion of Israel by Russia and Iran along with a few other nations. Of particular interest is the fact that God will miraculously judge this invading army. Ezekiel 39:4 says that God will feed this invading army to the ravenous birds.

On a trip to Israel in December of 2005, I discovered something there that I had never had the luxury of observing before. Our tour guide had the bus driver stop at an out-of-the-way place up on the Golan Heights. At this particular site in the northern part of Israel, our tour guide asked us to join him for a walk from the bus. We walked until we reached an overlook where several high hilltops could be viewed. Soaring from one hilltop to another and sometimes above us were large vultures with about seven-foot wingspans. The guide told us that these vultures had taken up residence in Israel and had been there for years, but in the last few years, for some unexplained reason, they have started multiplying at a rapid rate. We opened and read Ezekiel 38 & 39 and shared with the tour group that God was preparing the birds mentioned there. **How awesome this moment was! There before us was evidence that God was already gathering the birds for this great battle.**

Inspired by this experience, I decided to do some research when I arrived back home. I reasoned that it was going to take a lot more birds of prey for the task described in Ezekiel 39 than what we observed on the Golan Heights that day and to consider that we might be so close to this great battle, then there would be evidence of many more birds presently in Israel. What I discovered was just as amazing as observing the vultures that day!

By visiting a couple of WEB Sites at my office computer, I found that Israel has become the major flyway for all kinds of birds that migrate between Africa, Asia, and Europe. This becomes more meaningful to realize that the birds now stop in Israel whereas before there was no reason for them to stop because the land was desolate some fifty or so years ago. Because of agricultural efforts, Israel has since become a land of plenty. As a result, Israel now has small agricultural animals, wildlife, and fish that are raised in ponds that would be attractive to the birds and give plenty of reason to stop and linger in Israel. Surprisingly, but accordingly, over one million raptors were observed in Israel during 2005! Among them were the Honey Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Steppe Buzzard, Black Kite, and others. For verification of this, see the following Web Sites:

<http://www.science.co.il/Birding/Yizrael.asp>  
<http://www.birdcare.com/bin/shownews/26>

Not only are the birds taking their place for the fulfillment of the Ezekiel 38 & 39 prophecy, but the political situation is lining up as well. Russia is allied with Iran and supports Iran's efforts to become a nuclear power and has a history of being very anti-Israel. Russia

has also invited Hamas, a terrorist organization against Israel, after winning seats in the recent Palestinian Authority elections, to Moscow for diplomatic talks. This places Russia as having a political ally inside Israel that is hostile to Israel. Also, Iran is working defiantly against the United Nation's desires to become a nuclear power and at the same time saying that Israel must be "wiped off the map". It is estimated that soon Iran will have the ability to build a nuclear bomb that Israel is sure will be used against them.

Israel cannot allow Hamas to take up a stronghold in the heartland of Israel and use it a staging ground for more suicide bombings against the people of Israel. Also, Israel cannot afford to quietly stand by and watch Iran build nuclear weapons. If Israel soon retaliates against either, will this be the catalyst that brings Russia and her allies listed in Ezekiel 38:5&6 against Israel?

How soon all these things might take place is not evident but there are certain things concerning the Ezekiel 38 & 39 prophecy that are taking shape. The people of Israel, after almost nineteen centuries of being dispersed all over the world, are now returning to the land and Israel is now functioning as a country again. Russia has taken her place as a major military power and is located to the north of Israel just as Ezekiel 38:2 says and is allied with the countries listed in Ezekiel 38:5&6 including Iran (Persia). Iran has emerged as one of Israel's most threatening enemies and is telling the world they will "wipe Israel from the map". Then, there are the birds. Why are they showing up now? Is the Ezekiel 38 & 39 battle soon to take place?

**Seeing all of these things developing can only mean one thing, that we are living in the last of the last days and Jesus is coming soon.** The prophecies that are to precede His coming are lining up. The stage is being set. All of the players are taking their places. The curtain is about to rise and will take many by surprise.

People be aware! **God is "about to act"** (Ezekiel 36:22)! It is a good time to be right with Him and, if not right, there is no better time to get right! Romans 10:9 is the place to start. It says, **"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved"**.

By Gary Fisher

Note: This article reprinted by popular request.

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## Famous Quotes

**"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks," Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"**

Jay Leno

**"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up, who will turn their attention to the prophecies, in the midst of much clamor and opposition".**

Sir Isaac Newton

# Recent News and Bible Prophecy

## **Syrian Journalist: Syrians Ready for War -**

IsraelNationalNews.com - December 31, 2006 - "The Lebanon War and the Israeli defeat are a source of inspiration and encouragement, and have a mobilizing effect on the Syrian people..." "The Syrian nation has accepted the possibility that a conflict will break out, even at the price of Damascus and other Syrian cities being bombed," says the unnamed journalist.

**Comment:** A prophecy that has never been fulfilled found in Isaiah 17:1 predicts a day when Damascus will be destroyed. It seems that we draw near to that day.

## **Giant Black Hole at Center of Milky Way Grabs Planet-Sized Snack**

- Fox News - January 12, 2007 - An ancient X-ray outburst from the supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy caused surrounding gas clouds to glow brightly in a cosmic light show that is only now being detected. The researchers think the outburst was triggered by a small amount of matter falling into the black hole. "It doesn't actually require a lot of mass falling into the black hole to produce this outburst," said Michael Muno of Caltech. "The mass would be equivalent to the planet Mercury." Nobody knows what the black hole actually devoured. Like other galactic black holes, Sagittarius A\* is thought to be surrounded by a swirling disk of matter blown in by stellar winds.

**Comment:** Could this be the place of outer darkness that Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25:30?

## **New York stock exchange shareholders back Euronext merger**

- AFP - December 20, 2006 - New York Stock Exchange approved a tie-up European stock market operator Euronext, creating the world's biggest intercontinental bourse...The fabled New York exchange, the country's oldest, said the transatlantic deal would forge "the first truly global exchange group." It will also create the world's largest trading forums. "This is an historic day for NYSE Group and reaffirms our leadership position in global financial markets," said NYSE Group chief executive John Thain.

**Euro notes cash in to overtake dollar** - Financial Times - December 27 2006 - The US dollar bill's standing as the world's favorite form of cash is being usurped by the five-year-old euro. The value of euro notes in circulation is this month likely to exceed the value of circulating dollar notes, according to calculations by the Financial Times. Converted at Wednesday's exchange rates, the euro took the lead in October. The figures highlight the remarkable growth in euro notes since their launch on January 1 2002, three years after the start of Europe's monetary union.

**NYSE, Tokyo exchange announce alliance** - AP - January 31, 2006 - The New York Stock Exchange and Tokyo Stock Exchange announced an alliance Wednesday that extends the NYSE's global reach and could lead to an eventual combination of the world's

two largest financial markets.

**Comment:** Looks like we are headed toward a world stock market. Revelation 13 describes a day when the world's economy will be controlled by the Antichrist. According to Daniel 9, his headquarters will be Europe. It is only natural that Europe start to emerge as a financial powerhouse.

## **Episcopalians Install First Female Priest as Bishop**

- Associated Press - November 04, 2006 - Katharine Jefferts Schori took office Saturday as the first woman presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, a first not only for her denomination but also for the global Anglican Communion, which has never before had a female priest leading one of its provinces.

**Comment:** The qualifications in I Timothy 1-7 for a Bishop are evidently irrelevant to the Episcopalians, at least as to choosing Bishops. A Bishop is clearly male - **husband** of one wife, **he** manages his own household well, etc. I Timothy 4:1 says that days will come in which man will turn away from the faith paying attention to deceitful spirits.

## **Refrigerator-Sized Chunk of Ice Crushes Car in Florida**

- Fox News - January 28, 2007 - A Hillsborough County resident's Ford Mustang was destroyed by just that Sunday, when a large slab of ice fell from the clear Florida sky directly onto the automobile, WTVT reports. A neighbor of the resident who's now down a car told the local FOX affiliate that there was whooshing sound around 9 a.m. EST. Just moments later, he saw the car get crushed by ice. Neighbors speculated the block of ice weighed at least 50 pounds.

**Comment:** Reminiscent of the report in Revelation 16:21 that hailstones of one hundred pounds each will fall as a plague that God will send during the coming seven year Tribulation. If a fifty-pound one crushed a car, what will one-hundred-pound ones do?

## **Five years after 9/11: a shifted view of the world**

- Christian Science Monitor - September 11, 2006 - Old allies have become wary of one another, if not openly suspicious. Sensing inattention, small rogue nations may have decided it is time to make trouble. Two wars have begun, and their ends do not yet appear in sight. Less noticed, a quiet empire continues to rise in the East...the cold war was about the Western and communist blocs, and their values, conflicts, and internal cracks. The current period is about the US and the Islamic world - their mutual suspicions and occasional cooperation, and the wedge Al Qaeda has tried to drive between them.

**Comment:** Jesus said that He would return to a world in utter turmoil (Matthew 24:21), the world we see taking shape today.

## **Trade unions meet in Vienna to create new confederation**

- AFP - Oct. 31, 2006 - Union delegates from more than 150 countries convene Wednesday to create a new labor giant, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), aimed at bolstering opposition to globalization by ending decades of strife among unionists. The new entity would embrace 166 million workers from 309 unions in 156 countries.

**Comment:** Think of it - a world trade union! There is going to be a world government headquartered in Europe. (see Daniel 2 & 7 and Revelation 13). It is coming together rapidly!

# Questions and Answers:

**Question:** If all Christians are raptured to Heaven, and all non believers are sent to Hell, who will be left on Earth for Jesus to reign over when He returns? Is He taking people out of Heaven and returning them to Earth?

**Answer:** This is a very intelligent question? Your question reveals that the Rapture and the Second Coming cannot be the same event. There must be an interval of time between the Rapture and Second Coming for new believers to be found on earth. They go into and inhabit the new Kingdom as mortals, building houses, planting vineyards, having children, etc. (see Isaiah 65). If the Rapture occurs just before the Kingdom is established, "all" (I Corinthians 15:51-53) would have been translated from mortal to immortal, leaving no saved mortals to inherit the Kingdom (Matthew 25:31-). So, where do these mortals come from? They are the ones who are saved during the Tribulation either from the preaching efforts of 144,000 Jewish evangelists of Revelation 7, the "Two Witnesses" of Revelation 11, or the Angel announcing the Gospel of Revelation 14:6.

**Question:** Is there one verse in the Bible above all others that convinces you that there will be a Rapture before the Tribulation?

**Answer:** Yes. Revelation 3:10 is it. It says, "*Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*" Notice that this group mentioned is kept from the time of the testing (Tribulation, emphasis mine), not just protected in it.

**Question:** I believe your insistence about the Rapture occurring before the Tribulation is as dangerous as date setting! What if you are wrong? Will Christians be prepared to persevere properly?

**Answer:** I believe a Christian's ability to persevere in times of trouble is unrelated to what one believes about the timing of the Rapture, or, at least, it should be! There are thousands of Christians in various parts of the world today, many believing in a Rapture before the Tribulation, who are enduring persecution. Responsible teaching about the Rapture should never include the message that God's people will not endure trouble, but that they will be delivered from a special time of God's wrath, called the Tribulation, that is coming upon the earth (Revelation 3:10, I Thess 5:9, Romans 5:9).

**Question:** Does the Holy Spirit get taken out of the world at the Rapture?

**Answer:** No. An interpretation of II Thess. 2:7 is usually the basis for this question. It is stated there, "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken **out of the way**". The words "out of the way" are interpreted by many as out of the world. Believing the Holy Spirit to be the "restrainer", there is a day coming when he will stop restraining evil. See the Q&A section of our WEB Site for more detail on this answer.

**Note:** For those interested in much more detail in dealing with the subject of the Rapture, we offer an audio CD that will answer many of the questions about the subject. It is forty minutes long. See next column.



Gary Fisher -  
Founder/Director

The following products are offered for your personal study and edification.

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America the Beautiful - In Prophecy?.....(book, Reagan)...	\$ 7.00

\*Please include \$1.59 for postage for each item ordered.

**\*Expiration Date: We Need To Hear From You** - If receiving this newsletter through the mail, please notice the **expiration date** as part of your mailing address on the envelope the newsletter was mailed in. In most cases, that expiration date indicates that you have been receiving the newsletter for quite some time and that we need to hear from you **to insure that the newsletter is reaching you. If we do not hear from you, we will consider that the newsletter is not reaching you, or you are no longer interested in having the newsletter mailed to you.** When renewing, it is not necessary to send money, although it would be greatly appreciated and would help us with the production and mailing expenses.

**\*New Board Members** - Lion of Judah Ministry welcomes two new Board members. They are Jim May from Lexington, Kentucky and Senator Tim Moore from Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Jim and his wife Jeanie have long been supporters of this ministry. Jim has worked at the Agricultural Dep't of the University of Kentucky as an Agricultural Systems Manager for many years. Tim and his wife Amy have also long been supporters of this Ministry. Tim is a Lt. Colonel in the Kentucky Air Guard and has just been elected to the Kentucky State Senate. It is a joy to be close to both families and an honor to have both men join the Lion of Judah Board!

**\*Israel Trip** - I have just returned from my seventh Israel trip. These were ten days of wonderful experiences! Imagine standing on Mt. Carmel and overlooking the Valley of Armageddon. Think of having a devotional on the Mt. of Beatitudes, taking a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, visiting Capernaum where Jesus headquartered His ministry, or a visit to the Garden Tomb where many believe Jesus was buried and resurrected. Stand on the Mt. of Olives to where Jesus will return. Be baptized in the Jordan River. Accommodations are first-class and so are the memories! Next trip is being planned for early November. IF interested, call our office soon.

**\*Inspiring Message** - We've gotten a lot of feedback that the *Four Things Out of Place* is one of the most inspiring messages ever from our ministry. All the trouble in the world is the result of these four things being out of place. Available on CD. We have one for you. See top of page.

**Come visit us on the Internet:**  
[www.lionofjudahministry.org](http://www.lionofjudahministry.org)  
**email: [garyfisher@bellsouth.net](mailto:garyfisher@bellsouth.net)**

# Lion of Judah Ministry

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PO Box 681505 Franklin, TN 37068

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\* I would like to provide regular support to the ministry with \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month beginning \_\_\_\_\_ 2007.

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